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“Influence of GDC on the performance of composite cathode LSCF:GDC for Solid Oxide Fuel Cells”

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Abstract

This work is focused on the study of composite cathode LSCF/GDC. The aim is to understand the role of the GDC in the improved performance of the composite cathode compared to the pure LSCF one. Two different hypothesis have been elaborated in order to explain the better performance: the presence of GDC could enhance the ionic conductivity or it could have a catalytic effect or both. In order to understand which of these aspects could be influent, different designs of cathode have been manufactured. LSCF cathode has been used as reference and compared with the performances of a composite LSCF/GDC cathode, a LSCF impregnated with GDC one and a composite LSCF/GDC impregnated with GDC cathode. The impregnation has been carried out in order to verify the catalytic action of GDC. Symmetrical cells produced with these configurations have been submitted to electrochemical testing and microstructural analysis.

From the results obtained the improved performance of the composite compared with the pure LSCF has been confirmed; however the impregnation did not bring any improvement in the performance, suggesting the conclusion of no catalytic effect of the GDC. In any case further development of this study using a higher load of GDC and/or GDC particles with smaller size would be beneficial in order to confirm this result.

The tests on the cells were carried out also after 140 hours and it has been seen that the impregnated cathodes present a stable performance, whereas the composite not impregnated shows a worsening of performance. This behaviour suggests that the presence of deposited GDC particles stabilizes the cathode.

Index

Anno Accademico 2012 – 2013	I
Abstract	II
Index	III
Introduction	1
Chapter I	3
Fuel cells: fundamentals and theory	3
1.1 Fundamentals and functioning	3
1.2 Efficiency: Fuel Cells vs combustion engines	4
1.3 Advantages	6
1.4 Drawbacks	7
1.5 Types of Fuel Cells	7
1.6 Solid Oxide Fuel Cells	9
1.6.1 Main characteristics and advantages	10
1.6.2 Components and reactions	11
1.6.3 Polarization	12
1.6.4 Materials for anode, electrolyte and cathode	15
Chapter II	17
Cathode: Problematic and Materials	17
2.1 Reactive sites	18
2.1.1 Microstructure	19
2.1.2 Compounds	20
2.1.3 Triple phase boundary and composite cathode	24
2.1.4 MIEC materials	24
2.1.5 Composite cathode LSCF/GDC	26
2.2 Strategy of work	27
2.2.2 Composite cathode LSCF/GDC	28
2.3 Contacting	31
Chapter III	33

Experimental part	33
3.1 Materials	33
3.1.1 LSCF	33
3.1.2 GDC.....	35
3.2 Cell manufacturing	35
3.2.1 Preparation of suspension.....	36
3.2.2 Spraying.....	37
3.2.3 Sintering	39
3.2.4 Impregnation.....	40
3.3 Characterization analysis	42
3.3.1 Brunauer -Emmet-Teller Analysis.....	42
3.3.2 Thermo gravimetric analysis	43
3.3.3 X-Ray Diffraction	43
3.3.4 Scanning Electron Microscopy	44
3.3.5 Mercury porosimetry.....	46
3.3.6 Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy	47
Chapter IV	50
Results	50
4.1 Post manufacturing back addition of catalysts (PoMBA): impregnation treatment of cathodes.....	50
4.1.1 Determination of calcinations temperature with TGA	50
4.1.2 Phase purity vs calcination temperature.....	53
4.2 Effect of contacting: LSCF and LSCF contacted	54
4.3 Impedance measurements at different temperatures	57
4.3.1 Variation of the ohmic resistance in function of composition and temperature	62
4.3.2 Variation of the activation resistance in function of composition and temperature	64
4.3.3 Variation of gas polarization in function of composition and temperature	69
4.3.4 Variation of polarization during 140 hours of testing.....	69
4.4 Microstructure	76
4.4.1 Comparison of cell microstructure with Hg porosimetry	76
4.4.2 SEM cross section	78

Chapter V	83
Discussion.....	83
Conclusion and Outlook	87
Bibliography	88